



Where the World Lands
and **Opportunities**
Take Off

2023 STATE OF THE COUNTY

Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS





CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Left to Right: Commissioner DeMont Davis (District 4)
 Commissioner /Vice-Chair Felicia Franklin (District 3)
 Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner
 Commissioner Dr. Alieka Anderson (District 1)
 Commissioner Gail Hambrick (District 2)

MISSION

Clayton County is a community-focused government committed to maintaining a positive and effective atmosphere while providing access to resources that are beneficial to the economic growth and prosperity of our citizens, businesses, and employees.

VISION

Clayton County will serve as the archway between the region and the world by creating endless opportunities for all citizens to live, work, and play.

CORE VALUES

Accountability, Transparency, Collaboration, Integrity, Communication





Chief Operations Officer
Detrick Stanford



Interim Chief of Staff
Director, Fire & Emergency Services
Landry Merkison



Chief Staff Attorney
Charles Reed



Interim Chief Finance Officer
Stacey Merritt

STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS

- Professional Growth Management
- Economic Opportunity
- Communication & Image
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Quality of Life

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Clayton Connected Community:

I am excited to share the notable progress in Clayton County over the last year. The overall fiscal strength of our county and operations, residents' health, and public safety remains priority.

We are excited to implement a real-time crime center platform, develop recruitment and retention opportunities and pathways as well as expand partnerships with our businesses and non-profits.

Additionally, we recognize the direct and indirect challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working together, we provided resources to help residents maintain stable housing through the execution of the emergency rental and utility assistance program. We appreciate our non-profit partners who helped expedite the application process and distribution of federal funds to eligible residents in need. Additionally, we are proud to work with the Magistrate Court, property owners, and renters to prevent thousands of evictions.

Tremendous investments have been made to implement improvements like the new Spivey Splash Water Park, Clayton County's new premier destination, trail extensions, 21st century parks and recreation centers, senior centers, a newly constructed library branch, and a mobile health unit. All of these improvements benefit the entire community.

With your support, the Board of Commissioners look forward to exploring more opportunities to determine additional resources and making continuous progress. As we plan for the future, let us continue to hold each other accountable, and continuously engage as a Clayton connected community where the world lands and opportunities take off!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey E. Turner

Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner

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FINANCE

- Awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the current fiscal period and 20th consecutive year
- Awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 43 consecutive years, the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting representing a significant accomplishment by a government
- General fund cash and reserve position increased between 2015 and 2022
- General fund balance increased significantly growing from 39.69% to 44.92% of general fund revenue between 2018 and 2022
- High quality credit Aa2 rating equivalent to the U.S. counties, median of Aa2



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- Established a new Office of Digital Equity to help bridge the digital divide for Clayton County residents
- Launched new web site design and accessibility for compliance
- Replaced all network equipment in the Justice Center and Juvenile Court buildings
- Enhanced cybersecurity posture by implementing software to minimize risk to the county's data and network systems



TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Completed \$10 million street resurfacing program (20.7 miles on 37 streets) funded by Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)
- Completed 14 mid-block pedestrian crossings with refuge islands near MARTA bus stops to improve safety
- Completed bridge repair off East Conley Road over Conley Creek in 130 days



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$3 million in American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Small Business Grant Program to help business sustain and grow
- Hired a Project Manager to spearhead business retention and expansion recognizing industry needs
- Implemented \$3 Million ARPA Small Business Grant Program issuing funds to help Clayton County businesses sustain and grow
- Implemented round two ARPA Grant Program to fund eligible non-profit organizations in Clayton County, GA with \$500,000 in grants for 58 non-profit organizations
- Large Redevelopment of the Year Award Finalist for the 2022 Metro Atlanta Redevelopment Summit (Clayton County Public Schools Arena Project)
- Clayton County was awarded the largest Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Grant in 2022 for \$400,000 (Tara Gateway Study)
- Launched the first Small Business Open House during National Economic Development Week featuring these Small Business lenders and partners
- Silver Award recipient of International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for multi-media video production highlighting assets in the county



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FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Accredited agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)
- Responded to nearly 53,000 service calls
- Implemented a Mentorship Program for more positive work environment and better employee engagement
- Capital Projects: Fire Stations 1, 2, 9, 13, and 15
- Fire Headquarters Community Clinic
- New Clayton County Cares (4C) Program for equitable access to healthcare



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Issued \$113,900,000 in bond financing for Clorox, Clayton State University, Rock Hill Logistic Center and Freedom Landing Logistic Center Projects
- Assisted the Clayton County Board of Commissioners with over \$11 million in SPLOST funded projects for the construction of the Gilbert Road Project and the Business Incubator Project
- Implementation of Workforce Development Programs
- Lowered unemployment rate from 13.8% to 4.00% (More than \$800 million in restored income to our homes, families and businesses)
- Increased medium household income from \$49,000 in 2019 to \$61,523 in 2022



PROBATE COURT

- Resumed the Pro Bono Clinic and free 30-minute consultation
- Revamped training materials and resumed regular staff training
- Reduced the processing time for petitions and completed most cases within 30-90 days from the date of filing
- Successfully recruited and retained quality clerks and reduced the vacancies and turnover rate for the court



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POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Implemented The Fusus Program (Real-Time Crime Center)
- Hired 29 Police Academy Recruits
- Created Joint Crime Suspension Taskforce (C.A.G.E. Unit) with other municipalities
- Provided First Aid training, medical bag, and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) to all police officers

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

- Conducted successful Trash Amnesty Events in March 2022 (4 days) and collected more than 364 tons of trash
- Grass cutting, dead animal removal, litter removal and disposal on more than 740 miles of Georgia highways and county roads
- Successfully resolved 12,174 case concerns on 13,021 total cases and conducted 130 community blitzes citing or warning residents or business owners

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Developed and implemented a new podcast studio and launched the inaugural Clayton Connected Podcast episode featuring the county's Strategic Plan
- Vaccinate Clayton campaign: Increased the number of fully vaccinated residents by 10% (from 39% to 50%) in 2022 in the Vaccinate Clayton communications campaign in partnership with Department of Public Health and Fire and Emergency Services
- Launched mid-year Vaccinate Clayton communications/marketing strategy featuring senior citizens who share their statements on why they chose to take the COVID-19 vaccine
- Installed new digitized print services copiers and upgraded equipment to expand and enhance service capabilities
- Earned the top Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Georgia Phoenix Award for the Most Effective In-House Marketing Campaign for Spivey Splash Water Park as a premier destination
- Upgraded computers, cameras, and software for more effective development of creative services
- Implemented quarterly staff trainings for best practices in communications, photography, videography, social media, and other creative services





PARKS AND RECREATION

- Exceeded \$1.5 million in the first year of the new Spivey Splash Waterpark
- Added an additional Dog Park in District 1
- Held four Sip & Sound Concerts
- Planted over 300 trees in collaboration with Trees Atlanta
- Conducted national background checks on all coaches to ensure all children are safe
- Increased the Clayton Connects Trail system by 1.5 miles with plans to increase to over 20 miles by the end of 2023
- Increased minimum wage for all park employees to \$15.11 per hour

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

- Began \$40 million county administration building design
- Oversaw renovation, reconstruction, and completed upgrades for the new Spivey Splash Water Park
- Updated parking lot lighting at Charlie Griswell Senior Center and Virginia Gray Recreation Center
- Began construction on new fire station 1, 9, 13, and 15
- Completed move-in to the new Public Defender Office
- Completed upgrades to Shelnut Senior Center/Kinship Program for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Multiple facility enhancements to the Reynold's Nature Center
- Updated and issued a new employee handbook



TAX ASSESSORS

- Tax digest increased \$1.2 billion (2021-2022)
- Won appeal with the Department of Audits on 2021 Sales Ratio (Above 38)
- Increased taxable value of \$2.1 million
- Appeals decreased by 565 (from 5,317 to 4,753)
- Completed all appeals since the pandemic
- Fully staffed for the first time in three years



LIBRARY SYSTEM

- Partnership with Clayton County Public Schools for General Education Diploma (GED), English as Second Language (ESL) classes, and an exceptional student program
- New Bookmobile for the community
- Presented Planning for Collections Diversity Audit at Georgia Library Association Conference
- Purchased translation devices for non-English speaking members to have real-time conversations





CENTRAL SERVICES

- Earned the National Procurement Institute (NPI) Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award 2022, which recognizes organizational excellence in public procurement by measuring the procurement organization's innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement, and leadership attributes
- Implemented an electronic online bid system for an easy and accessible way to view and submit BID documents and quotes to the county
- Created and launched the county's Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) Cohort for Construction, which helps eligible Small Local Businesses gain capacity through partnerships with more experienced companies



UGA EXTENSION

- Director Rebecca Hardeman earned national recipe development award and invitation to present in Canada
- Distributed over 500 pounds of food at the Powerhouse Produce Party
- 4-H memberships increased from 217 to 1,289
- Most active 4-H camping season in over 5 years
- Summer activities increased by 300%



SENIOR SERVICES

- National Research Project participant: 1 of 4 senior services departments in the US selected to address the National Council on Aging and American Society of Aging on obesity
- Hosted the 2nd Annual State of Georgia Golden Olympics swim meet in collaboration with Clayton County Parks and Recreation
- Hosted the 2nd Annual county-wide Vet Connect Event serving over 350 Veterans in Clayton County



OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

- 24 high school scholars were sworn in as 2022-2023 Youth Commissioners
- Awarded \$100,000 in grant funds from HUD to develop a cybersecurity and coding boot camp in partnership with Information Technology Services
- Career, Technical, Agricultural, and Education (CTAE) partnership to introduce students to E-911, Cybersecurity, and Emergency Management



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Clayton County **Career**

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Clayton County Government
**Hiring Motivated,
Energetic People!**

Apply for a #Claytonconnected
Career Now!

Positions are available in more
than 20 departments.

- **Paid Vacation**
- **Dental/Health Benefits**
- **Retirement Pension**
- **Technology Discounts**
- **Free Access to Recreation Centers**
- **Free Program Memberships**
- **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)**



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